F.O.
371

CLOSED
UNTIL
1983

98510

SUPPLIED
FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/46

FROM

Mr Chapman Andrews, Beirut

No. 730

Dated 18. 11. 52

Received in Registry— 19. 11. 52.

Admission of Jordan to Ad-Com.

French Govt wish to know what Jordan's views are on the distribution of resettlement.

Rpt) Paris, Amman.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

-/44

98510

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Knight will by now have received our letter of 15th Nov. at EE 1825/44. This letter should have been copied to Paris and Amman.

It looks as if the French will agree soon and I ~~do~~ am still opposed to intervention by H.M. Embassy at Paris. If the French still hold out at next weeks meeting we might ask Paris to say a word.

It would probably be impossible to get Jordan to make any categoric statement on the point in para 1 within, in view of the general Arab policy of settling refugees (if they cannot be repatriated) as near their original homes as possible

Division please copy my letter of 15 Nov. (EE 1825/44) to Paris & Amman Chanceries

JWBR 20/11

E. Dept. ~~Hr Pulton~~ HRP 22/11

W. & Southern Dept } 4/11

(Action completed.) 3/12

(Index.) 10/7/53

Next Paper.

31401 F.O.P.

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 730
18th November, 1952.

D. 9.32 a.m. 19th November, 1952.
R.10.22 a.m. 19th November, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

E1825/46

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 730 18th November.
Repeated for information to Paris and Amman.

Following from Knight.

Jordan's Application to Advisory Commission.

The French delegate today stated that his Government, while having no objection, wished first to know if Jordan still agreed that the refugees now in Jordan should be distributed according to the economic capacities of countries, or now wished to settle all, or most of them, in Jordan. The French Government were perturbed about the economic implications of such an attitude. He said that this was not, however, a condition but a prior request for information.

2. Both Locke and I pointed out that, having invited Syria to join unconditionally, it is impossible now to make such a demand on Jordan. Locke also reminded him that the French Government had already agreed to the invitation as soon as the United Nations debate on our report was over.

3. The French delegate finally agreed to try to obtain unconditional agreement for next Tuesday's meeting.

4. Can you please help?

Foreign Office please pass to Paris as my telegram No. 32.

[Repeated to Paris]

DISTRIBUTED TO:-

Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

mmmmm

File Number:—

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1825/47

FROM

Mr O Harvey, Paris

No. 578.

Dated 20.11.52

Received in Registry— 21.11.52

Last Paper.

References.

-/46
38

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.) 3/12

(Index.) 10/7/53

Next Paper.

Jordan's admission to Ad. Com.

French Govt prefer to await the outcome of negotiations with Syria for settlement of refugees before making any decision re. the admission of Jordan.

(Minutes.)

I cannot understand the Quai d'Orsay's attitude. See minute on -/38.

Amman have now asked for authority to tell Jordan P.M. ~~that~~ informally that H.M.G favour an invitation to Jordan. (Amman tel 562 of 22th November attached). U.S. Legation Amman are apparently taking similar line.

I can see no objection to authorising Mr Furlonge to do this, but W. & S Dept may have views.

Jas Richmond
25/11

E. Dept.
W. & S. Dept. 26/x:

We ought to take what credit we can with the Jordanians for our attitude.

Could it be that the French, having secured a place for their protégé, would not like to see the balance restored by the admission of ours?

Jas Hunter
25/..

Now see /51.

CW 2/12

31401 F.O.P.

CONFIDENTIAL.

E

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir O. Harvey
No. 578
20th November, 1952.

D. 6.55 p.m. 20th November, 1952.
R. 7.39 p.m. 20th November, 1952.

E E7825/47

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 578 of 20th November,
Repeated for information to: Beirut
Amman
Damascus
and Saving to: Washington.

EE1825/46

Beirut telegram No. 730 to you. Jordan's application to Advisory Commission.

Member of my staff mentioned this subject in conversation with competent official at Quai d'Orsay who said that French views remained as described in my telegram No. 545. He went on to say that present internal situation in Jordan was viewed with anxiety by French Government and in any case he considered it preferable to await outcome of negotiations with Syria concerning settlement of refugees before making any decision on Jordan's application.

Foreign Office please pass to Beirut, Amman and Damascus as my telegrams Nos. 13, 20 and 12 respectively and Saving to Washington as my telegram No. 414.

[Repeated to Beirut, Amman, Damascus and Saving to Washington]

DISTRIBUTED TO

Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations Economic and Social Department

CCC

File Number:—

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1825/48

FROM

UNRWA
Beirut

No. Comm'd. AC.238.

Dated 14.11.52.

Received in Registry— 22.11.52

Admission of Syria to Ad. Com.

A press release issued by UNRWA on 13th November.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [signature] 4/12

(Index) [signature] 10/7/53

MINUTES

I presume the Syrians have agreed to this and no longer want to keep their membership secret.

We have not yet had the news that they have accepted the invitation, which Knight will presumably be reporting by next bag.

JWBR 25/9

E. Dept. 3aR. 27/11
U.N. (E.) Dept. [signature]

42863

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY
(PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION)
UNESCO BUILDING, BEIRUT LEBANON.

PRESS RELEASE

SYRIA BECOMES A MEMBER OF UNRWA'S ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East has great pleasure in announcing that the Syrian Republic has accepted an invitation to be represented on the Advisory Commission. It is understood that the Syrian Government will shortly announce the name of its representative, who will participate in the Commission's deliberations.

The United Nations' General Assembly Resolution of December 1949, which established the Agency, created an Advisory Commission composed of representatives of France, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States to advise and assist the Director in the planning and execution of the Agency's Programme. The Advisory Commission was also authorised to add not more than three additional members from the governments who are contributing to the Agency's Programme. Syria is the first country to be thus added.

oOo

13th November 1952.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/49

FROM

F.O. Minute
(Mr Nutting)

No.

Dated 18.11.52.

Received in Registry— 24.11.52.

Suggests that the Secretary of State might urge Arab delegations at the General Assembly to co-operate with UNRWA

References

MINUTES

JNH 25/11

(Print)

(How disposed of)

John Selwyn Lloyd.

Mr Nutting

RI Nov.

(Action completed)

25/11

(Index)

19/1/53

42863

EE 1825/49

Sir James Bowker

I am wondering whether there is any action which we could take through the Secretary of State or Minister of State in New York about Arab refugees. As you know, despite all the hard work and good intentions of UNRWA, we are still a very long way from a solution to this problem and in particular in the matter of resettlements. I had a rather gloomy account to give the House last week and though no criticism was directed at H.M.G. or the Agency, none the less several Members expressed concern about the rate of progress.

It occurs to me that since the resettlement problem hinges almost entirely on the co-operation, or lack of it, of the Arab Governments, I might address a line to the Secretary of State or Minister of State to suggest that an approach be made to these Governments' Representatives at the Assembly. Perhaps you would let me have your views urgently.

Anthony Nutting
18th November, 1952.

I should like to discuss this urgently with Mr. Wardrop & 19/11
& Mr. Richmond
JWB 19/11

R.J.B.
19/11

CONFIDENTIAL

Eastern Dept.
R.J.S.
27/xi

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

21st November, 1952.

I had a rather gloomy account to give the House last week about the progress in the resettlement of Arab refugees and, although no criticism was directed at Her Majesty's Government or the Agency, nonetheless several Members on both sides expressed concern about the rate of progress.

I have been wondering whether there is any action you could take in New York on this question. What I have in mind is not an official approach to the Arab Delegations collectively but rather than you might take such opportunities as occur in conversation with individual Heads of Arab Delegations to express our concern at the slow progress of the Agency's resettlement programme and to urge on them the necessity of whole-hearted co-operation by Arab Governments with the Agency's efforts to resettle refugees. As you know, the Agency's failure to fulfil their resettlement programme has already resulted in reducing the funds available for resettlement by the necessity of increasing relief for 1952-53. You could refer to Daudi's promise in the Plenary on 6th November that Syria would co-operate, and hope that his statement would be fully honoured by his Government. Unless the Arab Governments seriously assist the Agency in their resettlement plans and make possible some substantial progress before the next Assembly, contributing countries may well lose heart and recoil from the prospect of providing relief for the refugees indefinitely. The Arab Delegations ought to realise this danger.

(Sgd) ANTHONY NUTTING

Anthony Nutting.

The Rt. Hon. Selwyn Lloyd, C.B.E., T.D.,
Q.C., M.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Mr Nutting's suggestion that the SECRETARY OF STATE or the MINISTER OF STATE MIGHT URGE ARAB DELEGATIONS at the GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CO-OPERATE WITH U.N.R.W.A.

I should prefer that any approach to the Arab Delegations on this subject should be individual and informal. If Mr Nutting has in mind an approach at a high level to all the Arab Delegations together, I doubt the wisdom of this, because

(i) It might appear to the Arabs as "pressure" and possibly cause them to revert to the refugee question in the debate on the other Palestine items, which has not yet taken place.

(ii) Lack of Arab co-operation is not the only reason for lack of progress in resettlement. Lack of fertile land is an obstacle equally important.

(iii) The Syrian delegate said in the Plenary Session on the 6th November that Syria was prepared to co-operate with the Agency for humanitarian reasons.

(iv) The Arab Delegations are not necessarily very influential with their Governments.

2. If, however, the Secretary of State or the Minister of State has any informal opportunities of urging co-operation with U.N.R.W.A. on the Heads of Arab Delegations individually, I think this might be useful.

J.C.B.Richmond

Mr Wardrop.

Sir James Bowker.

(J.C.B.Richmond.)

19th November 1952.

I agree with Mr Richmond. As regards the second para., it is too late now to brief the Secretary of State; but it might be worth considering asking the Minister of State to speak

(27269) Wt. 22832—217 350m 11/50 G S S.

Minutes.

speak informally to the Arab Delegations.

James C Wardrop
19/11

I should be grateful if Mr. Richmond would draft a letter from Mr. Nutting to the Minister of State suggesting point that might be made in conversation with Arab Rejects.

R.J.B.
20/xi

I submit a dft.

J.W.B. Richmond
20/11

Mr. Wardrop.
I agree

James C Wardrop
20/11

1. Sir J. Bowker ✓
2. Mr. Kilflick

JB/21/11

R. J. Bowker
20/xi

Many thanks.

Bow Nov. 21.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
24 NOV 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

(Mr Richmond.)
Registry
No.

~~Middle East Secretariat~~,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

CONFIDENTIAL. November, 1952.

Draft.

The Minister of State,
NEW YORK.

both sides

I had a rather gloomy account to give the House last week about the progress in the resettlement of Arab refugees and, although no criticism was directed at Her Majesty's Government or the Agency, none the less several Members on expressed concern about the rate of progress.

2. I have been wondering whether there is any action you could take in New York on this question, ~~and~~ What I have in mind is not an official approach to the Arab Delegations collectively but rather that you might take such opportunities as occur in conversation with individual Heads of Arab Delegations to express our concern at the slow progress of the Agency's resettlement programme and to urge on them the necessity of wholehearted co-operation by Arab Governments with the Agency's efforts to resettle refugees. (As you know,) The Agency's failure to fulfil their resettlement programme has already resulted in reducing the funds available for resettlement by the necessity of increasing relief for 1952-53. You could refer to Daudi's promise in the Plenary on the 6th November that Syria would co-operate, and hope that his statement would be fully honoured by his Government. Unless the Arab Governments seriously assist the Agency in their resettlement plans and make possible some substantial progress

/before the .....

FROM :
Mr Nutting.

Roger Bowker
20/11

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(10/48) (22601) Wt. 8471-188 200m 6/49 G.S.St.

before the next Assembly, contributing countries may well lose heart and recoil from the prospect of providing relief for the refugees indefinitely. The Arab Delegations ought to realise this danger.

Nov. 21.

(~~A. Nutting.~~)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1825/50

FROM Mr Furlonge. Amman

No. 562

Dated 24/11

Received in Registry— 25/11

Jordan's admission to Ad Com. U.S. colleague's view is that if French continue to block the way, the Jordan Govt. should be so informed

Rptd Paris Beirut Damascus + Wtn.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

See on -/47 and -/51.

JWBR 26/11

References.

-/47

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel Amman 712 29/11

Rptd Paris 1601

Beirut 1067

Damascus 567

W. Van 4737 (5)

(Action completed.) [signature] 8/12

(Index.) 10/2/53

Next Paper.

31401 F.O.P.

CONFIDENTIAL.

FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E1825/50

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Furlonge
No. 562
24th November, 1952.

D. 2.32 p.m. 24th November, 1952.
R. 3.04 p.m. 24th November, 1952.

PRIORITY.
CONFIDENTIAL.

E1825/47

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 562 of 24th November,
Repeated for information to: Paris
Beirut
Damascus
and Saving to: Washington.

Paris telegram No. 578.

My United States colleague, who had received similar information from Paris, spoke to me on this subject today after it had been raised at a meeting between Blandford and representatives of the four Advisory Commission Powers. He stated that, to his knowledge, the Jordan Prime Minister attaches great importance to Jordan being represented on the Advisory Commission and that, in his view, if the French Government continue to block the invitation for reasons which he considers to be without validity it is essential that the Jordan Government should be left in no doubt as to which is the opposing Power. I understand that he is reporting in this sense.

2. I fully share my United States colleague's view, and should be grateful for authority to inform the Jordan Prime Minister informally that Her Majesty's Government are in favour of Jordan being invited.

Foreign Office pass Paris as my telegram No. 28 and to Washington as my Saving telegram No. 39.

[Repeated to Paris and Saving to Washington].

DISTRIBUTED TO

CCC
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations Economic and Social Department

25 NOV 1952 AMMAN

CCC

Registry No. EE 1825/50

F.O., CB B

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(Date) 29/11

Despatched 25 P M.

CYPHER

[Security classification —if any] CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to AMMAN.

telegram No. 712 (date) 29/11

repeated for information to PARIS, BEIRUT (for Sir Henry Knight), DAMASCUS, and Saving to WASHINGTON.

Your telegram No. 562 [of 24th November : Jordan's request to join Advisory Commission of UNRWA.].

You will have seen from my telegram No. 1600 [of 29/11] to Paris that we are asking Paris to tackle the Quai d'Orsay about the invitation to Jordan.

2. If these representations are unsuccessful in effecting a change in the French attitude, you may inform the Jordan Prime Minister informally that Her Majesty's Government are in favour of Jordan being invited.

Distributed to Eastern Dept. Western & Southern Dept United Nations (Econ & Soc) Dept Middle East Secretariat

RB 29/11

Draft.

Telegram to :— AMMAN.

No. 712.

(Date)

Repeat to :— PARIS 1601. 1067 BEIRUT (for Sir Henry Knight) 567 DAMASCUS, and Saving to 4737 WASHINGTON.

~~XXXXXX~~
~~XXXX~~
Cypher.

Distribution :—

Departmental
E. Dept. 27/11
W. & S. Dept. 28/11
U.N. (E. & S.) Dept.
MES

RECEIVED IN C.B.
1 - DEC 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

11.100
29/11/52

(37400) Wt.40591/176 125,000 1/49 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

CONFIDENTIAL.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO AMMAN

Cypher/OTP and by bag
EE 1825/50

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

No. 712
29th November, 1952.

D. 2.00 p.m. 29th November, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Amman telegram No. 712 of 29th November,
Repeated for information to: Paris
Beirut (for Sir Henry Knight)
Damascus
and Saving to: Washington No. 4737.

Your telegram No. 562 [of 24th November: Jordan's request to join Advisory Commission of UNRWA.].

You will have seen from my telegram No. 1600 [of 29th November] to Paris that we are asking Paris to tackle the Quai d'Orsay about the invitation to Jordan.

2. If these representations are unsuccessful in effecting a change in the French attitude, you may inform the Jordan Prime Minister informally that Her Majesty's Government are in favour of Jordan being invited.

DISTRIBUTED TO

Eastern Department
Western and Southern Department
United Nations (Economic and Social) Department
Middle East Secretariat

CCC

File Number:—

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE 1825/51

FROM Sir O. Harvey Paris.

No. 584

Dated 25th Nov. 1952.

Received in Registry— 26/11/52.

Jordan's application for membership of the Advisory Commission.

Quai d'Orsay request that any decision should be postponed until the situation in Jordan becomes more settled.

Reptd: Beirut, Amman Damascus & W'ton

Last Paper.

References.

-/46

-/47

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel) Paris 1600

Rpt) Amman 711 29/11

Beirut 1066

Damascus 566

W'ton 4736 (S)

(Action completed.) 2/12

(Index.) 10/2/53

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

The French are still opposing an invitation to Jordan to join the Advisory Commission of U.N.R.W.A.

2. The reasons they advance are

(i) Syria, although invited some time since, has not yet appointed her representative.

(ii) Jordan is unstable internally and her future policy uncertain.

(iii) Jordan might oppose settlement of refugees in order to keep the dollar relief provided for them in Jordan.

(iv) Jordan is not a member of the United Nations.

The Quai d'Orsay therefore ask that the invitation should be delayed for three to six weeks. They apparently hope that such a delay would cause Jordan to offer a "guarantee for the future", the nature of which they do not specify.

3. I am at a loss to understand the reasons for the French attitude. I find it difficult to believe that they are those stated and I suggest that we try and smoke them out by instructing Paris on the line of the attached draft telegram to Paris.

4. Mr Furlonge has asked for authority to inform the Jordan Prime Minister informally that Her Majesty's Government are in favour of Jordan being invited (Amman telegram No. 562 of the 24th November at -/50). I suggest that he should be given this authority but should be asked not to make use of it unless the French maintain their objections in the face of our representations. Accordingly,

~~5.~~ I attach a~~nother~~ draft telegram to Amman

Western & Southern Dept. 29/11

Eastern Department. 27/11

Sir James Bowker.

J.C.B. Richmond

(J.C.B.Richmond.)

27th November 1952.

Sent. CW 29/11

31401 F.O.P

E E 1825/51

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir O. Harvey
No. 584
25th November, 1952.

D. 8.04 p.m. 25th November, 1952.
R. 8.54 p.m. 25th November, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 584 of 25th November.
Repeated for information to Beirut,
Amman,
Damascus,
and Saving to Washington.

26 NOV 1952

EE 1825/46

/ EE 1825/47

My telegram No. 578 and Amman telegram No. 562: Jordan's Application to the Advisory Commission.

Head of competent Department of the Quai d'Orsay sent for member of my staff today and told him that he had been considering this question in light of events reported in Beirut telegram No. 730 to you. He said that he had only now realised that although the decision had been taken some time ago to invite Syria to join the Commission, the Syrian representative was not in fact working yet. Secondly, reports of unrest in Jordan and the threat to Abul Huda's position combined with present disturbances in Iraq led him to wonder whether it was in fact advisable to invite into the bosom of the Advisory Commission representative of a state whose internal situation was unstable and whose future policy probably unknown. Thirdly he recounted the arguments contained in my telegram No. 545 of 25th October.

2. In these circumstances he would like to request that any decision in this matter should be postponed until the situation was clearer. When asked how long a postponement he had in mind, he said from three to six weeks and added that if the Jordan Government saw that their request was not being granted they would realise that something more was expected of them and would act in a more responsible manner and offer some sort of guarantee for the future. He said he preferred this method to telling Jordan brutally that they would only be admitted to membership of the Commission if certain conditions were granted. He hoped that Her Majesty's Government would support this request for postponement.

/Foreign

CONFIDENTIAL

Paris telegram No. 584 to Foreign Office.

Foreign Office please pass to Beirut, Amman and Damascus as my telegrams Nos. 14, 21 and 13 respectively.

[Repeated to Beirut, Amman, and Damascus.]

DISTRIBUTED TO:
Eastern Department.
Middle East Secretariat.
United Nations Economic and Social Department.

xxx

[A]

Registry No. EE 1825/51

~~Secret~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted~~

F.O.,

(Date) 29/11/52

CYPHER

Despatched 2 p.m.

[Security classification —if any] CONFIDENTIAL.

OUTFILE

Addressed to PARIS.

telegram No. 1600 (date) 29/11

repeated for information to AMMAN, BEIRUT (for Sir Henry Knight), DAMASCUS, and Saving to WASHINGTON.

Draft.

Telegram to :— PARIS.

No. 1600

(Date) 29/11/52

Repeat ~~for information~~ to AMMAN 711, BEIRUT (for Sir Henry Knight) 1066, DAMASCUS, 566 and Saving to WASHINGTON. 4736 saw

Your telegram No. 584 [of 25th November : Jordan's request to join Advisory Commission of UNRWA.].

We cannot understand the French attitude. We do not know in what respect they consider Jordan has been acting irresponsibly nor what sort of "guarantee for the future" they have in mind. Moreover, the postponement they suggest seems most unlikely to produce anything of the kind.

2. The French have put forward four reasons for their opposition to inviting Jordan :

(i) Syria, although invited some time ago, has not yet appointed her representative.

(ii) Jordan is internally unstable and her future policy uncertain.

(iii) Jordan might oppose settlement of refugees in Syria in order to keep dollar relief provided for them in Jordan.

(iv) Jordan is not a member of the United Nations.

We do not understand the relevance of (i). Syria has been invited and has, ~~we believe~~, ~~accepted~~. (ii) applies equally to Syria. We

/have no evidence.....

now made her acceptance public.

E. Dept.
W. & S. Dept.
Sir J. Bowker.
Dept. first

RECEIVED IN E.B.
1 DEC 1952
FOLIO DEPT.

~~Code~~
Cypher.

Distribution :—

Departmental
E. Dept. 27/11
W. & S. Dept.
UNE (E & S) Dept.
MES.

11-10am
29/11/52
WHS

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(36302) Wt.21357/165 75,000 8/48 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685
(37421) Wt.40592/177 125,000 1/49 " "

have no evidence to support (iii) and Jordan could prevent refugees leaving her territory whether or not she was a member of ADCOM. In any case Syria has not so far agreed to admit refugees from Jordan. As for (iv), the relevant United Nations resolution (302 (IV) of 8th December 1949) says that ~~extra~~ additional members of ADCOM. should be "contributing Governments" not "contributing Governments who are members of the United Nations". The resolution later urges "members of the United Nations and non members" to contribute.

3. We should be grateful if you would put these points to the Quai d'Orsay and urge them to agree to the invitation. You could add that since Jordan harbours about half, and Syria only about one-tenth of the refugees, it would be most invidious to refuse the invitation to Jordan while extending one to Syria.

and two points in American Telegram No 573 just received.

R.G.B.
29/xi

Distributed to
Eastern Dept
Middle East Secretariat
Western and Southern Dept
United Nations (Economic and Social) Dept

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

Cypher/OTP and By Bag
EE 1825/51

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

No: 1600
29th November, 1952.

D: 2.00 p.m. 29th November, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Paris telegram No: 1600 of 29th November

Repeated for information to: Amman. Beirut (for Sir Henry Knight).
Damascus.

and Saving to: Washington No: 4736.

Your telegram No: 584 [of 25th November: Jordan's request to join Advisory Commission of UNRWA].

We cannot understand the French attitude. We do not know in what respect they consider Jordan has been acting irresponsibly nor what sort of "guarantee for the future" they have in mind. Moreover, the postponement they suggest seems most unlikely to produce anything of the kind.

2. The French have put forward four reasons for their opposition to inviting Jordan:

(i) Syria, although invited some time ago, has not yet appointed her representative.

(ii) Jordan is internally unstable and her future policy uncertain.

(iii) Jordan might oppose settlement of refugees in Syria in order to keep dollar relief provided for them in Jordan.

(iv) Jordan is not a member of the United Nations.

We do not understand the relevance of (i). Syria has been invited and has now made her acceptance public. (ii) applies equally to Syria. We have no evidence to support (iii) and Jordan could prevent refugees leaving her territory whether or not she was a member of ADCOM. In any case Syria has not so far agreed to admit refugees from Jordan. As for (iv), the relevant United Nations resolution (302 (iv) of 8th December, 1949) says that additional members of ADCOM should be "contributing Governments" not "contributing Governments who are members of the United Nations". The resolution later urges "members of the United Nations and non members" to contribute.

3. We should.....

3. We should be grateful if you would put these points, and the points in Amman telegram No: 573 just received, to the Quai d'Orsay and urge them to agree to the invitation. You could add that since Jordan harbours about half, and Syria only about one-tenth of the refugees, it would be most invidious to refuse the invitation to Jordan while extending one to Syria.

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Eastern Department.
Middle East Secretariat.
Western and Southern Department.
United Nations (Economic and Social) Department.

JJJJJ

File Number :—

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/52.

FROM

Chancery, Damascus. to MOS

No. 18202/220/52

Dated 19. 11. 52.

Received in Registry— 27. 11. 52

Syrian membership to Ad. Com.

Encloses copies to two communiqués issued on 13th & 14th November.

References

-/40

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 4/12

(Index) 20/2/53

MINUTES

News Dept. 2/12

E. Dept. P.ATR 2/12 2/12.

Sir James Barker may care to see.

J.B. Richmond 28/1.

R.J.B. 2/xii

42863

E

UNCLASSIFIED.

18202/226/52

British Embassy,
Damascus

19th November, 1952.

E 1825/40

E 1825/52

Dear Secretariat,

With reference to Washington telegram No. 2023 of the 29th October, Syrian membership of ADCOM was made public on the 13th November by the Syrian authorities and by UNRWA in Beirut.

... 2. We enclose the texts of the two communiqués.

3. We are sending copies of this letter to Sir Henry Knight and to the Chanceries at Amman, Ankara, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, Paris, Tel Aviv, Washington and the United Kingdom Delegation New York.

Yours ever,
CHANCERY.

Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
27 NOV 1952
SENT to DEPT.

UNCLASSIFIED.

Enclosure to Damascus Chancery letter No. 18202/226/52 dated 19th November, 1952 to Middle East Secretariat.

Damascus. 13th November.

The Syrian Government has accepted the invitation which was extended to it by UNRWA to become a member of the Advisory Commission.

This will undoubtedly promote further co-operation between UNRWA and the Syrian Government in the understanding of refugee affairs. Syria will take an effective part in the Commission's work and will extend advice and aid to the Director of UNRWA in matters which concern the interests and the conditions of the refugees.

Beirut. 14th November.

UNRWA ADDS SYRIA TO ADVISORY COMMISSION.

Syria has agreed to join the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the Agency's headquarters announced Thursday.

Syria thus becomes the first Arab state to be represented on the Commission, the original members of which are France, Turkey, Great Britain and the United States.

The Commission was set up by the U.N. in December, 1949, to assist the UNRWA director in the execution of the Agency programme.

The Advisory Commission was authorised to add not more than three additional members from the governments contributing to UNRWA. Syria is the first to be named, and an official report indicates that Jordan will be the second.

The Syrian Government will announce the name of its representative shortly.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

1952

E E 1825/53

FROM

Mr Furlonge

Amman

No. 573.

Dated

Received in Registry— 28.11.52 29.11.52

Admission of Jordan to ad. Com.

Denies the French suggestion that the internal situation in Jordan should hinder her admission to ad. Com.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

Ack on -/5/7

1/12

References.

-/51

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

2/12

(Index.)

10/12/52

Next Paper.

31401 F.O.P.

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM AMMAN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 1825/53

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Furlonge

No. 573 D. 11.51 a.m. 28th November, 1952

28th November, 1952 R. 12.50 p.m. 28th November, 1952

PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 573 of 28th November,

Repeated for information to: Paris
Beirut

and Saving to: Damascus
Washington

E 1825/51

Paris telegram No. 584, first paragraph.

The French assessment of the internal situation in Jordan is not borne out by facts. The "unrest" on the West Bank a fortnight ago was very mild and easily controlled and has now completely subsided. It at no time affected refugees. The Prime Minister has markedly improved his position and present indications are that his Government will be able to carry on as the opposition has become disunited. Even if they could not and had to resign, there is no reason to suppose that this would jeopardise the internal stability of the country which seems to me to compare favourably with that of any other Arab State.

2. The policy of any Jordan Government towards the refugee problem is likely to be based on the attitude adopted by the Arab League, to which Syria would presumably also conform.

3. In short, I can see no validity in the French arguments and hope that their suggestion of delay will be resisted.

Foreign Office pass Paris and Beirut as my telegrams Nos. 29 and 183 and to Damascus and Washington as my Saving telegrams Nos. 49 and 49 respectively.

[Repeated to Paris and Beirut and Saving to Damascus and Washington].

DISTRIBUTED TO:
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations Economic and Social Department
7777777

File Number:—

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/54

FROM
Sir H. Knight,
Beirut
to Mr Richmond.

No. AC 77

Dated 26. 11. 52.

Received in Registry— 3. 12. 52.

Negotiations with Jordan.

Blandford has had discussions recently with Jordan Ministers re. (1) the possibility of providing the refugees with money instead of rations and (2) Jordan Govt taking over distribution of relief.

References

EE 1825/56 - TYPE 14/12

MINUTES

See now -/56.

JWSR 15/12

E. Dept. [illegible] 15/12.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8) Mr. Clifton, Soy. 10 Dec

(Action completed)	(Index)
[illegible] 2/1	[illegible] 10/2/53

42863

(AC 77)

CONFIDENTIAL

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Embassy,
BEIRUT.

26th November, 1952.

E1825/54

Dear Richmond,

In his recent discussions with certain of the Jordan Ministers, Blandford was pressed that UNRWA should provide the refugees with cash instead of rations in kind. This would help the Jordan economy, and the Jordan Government felt it would be able to control prices. Blandford of course pointed out that there seemed no United Nations precedent for paying refugees in cash instead of in kind, that the addition of so much money to that in circulation in Jordan would be likely to lead to inflation and a rise of prices, and the organisation of retail supplies to 450,000 people might be a difficult task.

2. Blandford suggested that the Jordan Government should take over full responsibility for the distribution of relief and the Ministers suggested that they would like to study the possibility of the Jordan Government taking over full responsibility for food supplies to refugees in some definite area, probably in the Jordan Valley, covering some 50,000 refugees, as an experiment.

3. Blandford made it clear that, though it would be a good thing to study such a possibility, he must not be taken at the moment as committing UNRWA to it.

4. While I think that probably the Jordan Government on consideration will shy off the operation, if it could be put into force it might prove the thin end of the wedge of the United Nations divesting itself of this thankless task of direct responsibility for feeding the refugees. I will let you know developments, if any.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Amman, Damascus, Cairo, B.M.E.O. Fayid and Washington.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. Knight)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/55

FROM

Sir O. Harvey, Paris.

No. 604.

Dated 3.12.52.

Received in Registry— 4.12.52.

Admission of Jordan to Ad. Com.

The Quai d'Orsay promise to answer within the next day or two.

Rpt) Beirut, Amman, Damascus, W. Ron.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

E. Dent 2/12

6/12

References.

-/50
51

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.) 9/12

(Index.) 10/2/53

Next Paper.

31401 F.O.P

CONFIDENTIAL

E E1825/55 E

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir O. Harvey
No.604
3rd December, 1952

D. 4.39 p.m. 3rd December 1952
R. 6.05 p.m. 3rd December 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No.604 of 3rd December
Repeated for information to Beirut
Amman
Damascus
and Saving to Washington E

Your telegram No.1600: Jordan and Advisory Commission.

We have been over the ground again with the Quai d'Orsay, and they have promised to let us have an answer within a day or two. As there is a good prospect of their now agreeing to invite Jordan, I hope that the communication to the Jordan Prime Minister, proposed in your telegram No.712 to Amman, may be postponed until we have their answer.

2. They were at pains to explain that their opposition to the invitation was not due to any desire to discriminate against Jordan, but rather to a belief that delay in issuing it would result in the Jordan Government eventually being more cooperative with the Commission. We did our best to dispose of this argument.

Foreign Office please pass to Beirut Amman and Damascus as my telegrams Nos. 15, 22 and 14 respectively.

[Repeated to Beirut, Amman and Damascus].

DISTRIBUTED TO:
Eastern Department
United Nations Economic and Social Department
Middle East Secretariat
Western and Southern Department

bbbbb

DEC 1952

File Number:—

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1825/56

FROM

Mr Furlonge.
Amman.
to Mr Richmond.

No. 18205/55.

Dated

Received in Registry— 4.12.52. 11.12.52.

Negotiations with Jordan.

Apprehensions about the proposal to distribute cash instead of rations to the refugees in Jordan.

References

EE1825/54
EE1821/1/2

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft) Col. W. Russell-Edmunds, Treasury
from Mr. Richmond. 18 Dec.
8) Serpell, Treasury. 19 Dec.

(Action completed)

L. RHD. 12/1

(Index)

[illegible] 10/2/53

MINUTES

I agree with Furlonge that this idea should be nipped in the bud.
We shd presumably consult Treasury.
Wd it be Russell Edmunds or Serpell?

J.W.B. Richmond 15/12

E. Dept. (Mr Hunter)
I suggest both, for safety! J.W. Hunter 15/12

Dft. to Russell Edmunds.
B.V. 22/12 for Treasury reply.

J.W.B. 16/12

This has been overtaken by events. See Amman tels 632 & 633 and our reply.

EE 1821/1
EE1821/2

J.W.B. 9/1/53

42863

(1205/55)

CONFIDENTIAL

British Embassy,
AMMAN.

December 4th, 1952.

E 1825/56

Dear John,

I have discussed with Telford (the new UNRWA Country Director) and Kendrick (the Controller of Currency) the implications of the Jordan Government's proposal, reported in Knight's letter AC 77 of November 26th to you, that UNRWA should distribute cash instead of rations to the refugees in Jordan.

E 1825/54

2. Telford states that there is as yet no sign of the Jordan Ministers shying off the idea, on which they still seem keen. Their argument is, apparently, that the refugees, when given money instead of rations, would buy all kinds of local products, particularly vegetables, for which the market is at present stagnant, and would thus reactivate local trade in general. They seem oblivious to the dangers of inflation and disorganisation which would inevitably follow.

3. He himself seems to be of the opinion (though his view should not be quoted) that the "Pilot Scheme" mentioned in paragraph 2 of Knight's letter, which would however be round Amman instead of in the Jordan Valley, might provide useful information and education of Ministers against the day when UNRWA had to pull out of Jordan. I have told him that I fear, on the other hand, that a Pilot Scheme on a small scale, especially round Amman, might prove feasible when a full-scale scheme was not, and might therefore merely mislead the Jordan Ministers.

4. Kendrick shares my apprehensions of the idea as a whole. We realise that the eventual aim must be to pass over to the Jordan and other Arab Governments full responsibility for looking after their refugees. I have myself advocated this, as being the most powerful incentive to them to do something about a solution, instead of sitting back as at present and letting UNRWA look after the refugees. If it were agreed that, as from a certain date some months ahead, the Jordan Government was to take over full responsibility for the refugees, it is just conceivable that they might in the intervening period be able to set up their own organisation, probably on similar lines to UNRWA's and perhaps employing some of their technicians, for such purposes as bulk purchases and import of foodstuffs and so on.

5. If, on the other hand, as is apparently the present idea, UNRWA should continue to operate in Jordan with all its medical, educational, and other services, but should hand over cash to the Jordan Government instead of rations to the refugees, we foresee that the Jordan Government would almost inevitably fail to take the necessary measures in advance, especially in view of the Ministers' obsession with "activating the local economy", with the result that

/all

J.C.B.Richmond,Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

all the money thus handed to the refugees would in fact be set against virtually the same quantity of goods. Inflation would seem necessarily to follow. The Jordan economy, as you well know, is in far too precarious a state to stand a strain of this nature. The time to make a stand would seem to be at once, in view of the danger, referred to above, that a Pilot Scheme might give misleading results and merely encourage the Jordan Government to press for full implementation of their idea.

6. I assume that in all this the position of H.M.G. differs from that of the other three ADCOM Powers, in view of Jordan's membership of the sterling area and our direct interest in her economy. I gave a hint to this effect at a recent meeting with Blandford and the diplomatic representatives of these powers. Hitherto I have avoided discussing UNRWA matters with the Jordan Government merely on the basis of our membership of ADCOM and our position as a large supplier of funds to UNRWA. But here it seems to me that we should be justified in intervening directly with the Jordan Government, if the views I have expressed above appear correct. You will no doubt let me know if you wish me to take action and if so on what lines.

7. I am copying this letter to Knight, and to the Chanceries at Damascus, Cairo, Washington, and B.M.E.O. (Fayid).

Yours ever,
G. W. Furlonge

(G.W.Furlonge)

Registry No. EE 1825/56

17/4/19

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

Colonel W. Russell-Edmunds, O.B.E., T.D., Treasury, S.W. 1.

+ 2 Enclosure "A" & copies

Middle East Secretariat,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.
18 December, 1952.

I sent Clifton a copy of Sir Henry Knight's letter AC 77 of the 26th November, in which he reported that certain Jordan Ministers were pressing Blandford for U.N.R.W.A. to provide the refugees with cash instead of rations in kind. Knight thought it probable that, on further consideration, the Jordan Government would not pursue this suggestion.

2. I now enclose a copy of a letter from Furlonge which shows that there is as yet no sign of the Jordan Ministers shying off the idea. The Jordan Government are apparently obsessed with the idea of "activating the local economy" and hope that the refugees' purchases of local products will have this result.

3. Furlonge, on the other hand, and Kendrick, consider that the result would be severe inflation, ~~and~~ Furlonge thinks that Her Majesty's Government would therefore be justified in intervening directly with the Jordan Government to prevent the suggestion being adopted. He asks for instructions.

4. The idea seems to me to have no merit even from the point of view of U.N.R.W.A., since I cannot believe that it would lead to the Jordan Government taking over direct responsibility for feeding the refugees. The amounts that U.N.R.W.A. at present spends on feeding refugees are very small, since the Agency gets the benefit of large-scale purchasing. To hand over to the individual refugee the equivalent of the two or three dollars monthly which it now costs the Agency to feed him would not, I think, be

/a very satisfactory .....

Cleared by telephone with E. Jones.

FROM :
Mr Richmond.

COPY to
Mr D.R.Serpell, O.B.E., Treasury, S.W. 1.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
17 DEC 1952
2 pm

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

51—4378

a very satisfactory bargain from ~~the~~ his point of view, ~~of the individual refugee and I consider~~ and would lead to demands for larger sums which would be difficult to resist. I consider that we should therefore instruct Sir A. Knight to oppose any such plan in the Advisory Commission, and that we should be quite justified in intervening with the Jordan Government if it became necessary to prevent this idea being adopted. The Treasury will doubtless wish to comment from the point of view of inflation and that of our direct interest in Jordan's economy, and I should be grateful for your views as early as possible.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Serpell in case his side of the Treasury is interested.

16/12

(J.C.B.Richmond.)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUTFILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(EE 1825/56)

18th December, 1952.

I sent Clifton a copy of Sir Henry Knight's letter AC 77 of the 26th November, in which he reported that certain Jordan Ministers were pressing Blandford for United Nations Relief and Works Agency to provide the refugees with cash instead of rations in kind. Knight thought it probable that, on further consideration, the Jordan Government would not pursue this suggestion.

2. I now enclose a copy of a letter from Furlonge which shows that there is as yet no sign of the Jordan Ministers shying off the idea. The Jordan Government are apparently obsessed with the idea of "activating the local economy" and hope that the refugees' purchases of local products will have this result.

3. Furlonge, on the other hand, and Kendrick, consider that the result would be severe inflation, Furlonge thinks that Her Majesty's Government would therefore be justified in intervening directly with the Jordan Government to prevent the suggestion being adopted. He asks for instructions.

4. The idea seems to me to have no merit even from the point of view of U.N.R.W.A., since I cannot believe that it would lead to the Jordan Government taking over direct responsibility for feeding the

refugees./

Colonel W. Russell-Edmunds, O.B.E., T.D.,
Treasury.

refugees. The amounts that U.N.R.W.A. at present spends on feeding refugees are very small, since the Agency gets the benefit of large-scale purchasing. To hand over to the individual refugee the equivalent of the two or three dollars monthly which it now costs the Agency to feed him would not, I think, be a very satisfactory bargain from his point of view, and would lead to demands for larger sums which would be difficult to resist. I think we should therefore instruct Sir Henry Knight to oppose any such plan in the Advisory Commission, and that we should be quite justified in intervening with the Jordan Government if it became necessary to prevent this idea being adopted. The Treasury will doubtless wish to comment from the point of view of inflation and that of our direct interest in Jordan's economy, and I should be grateful for your views as early as possible.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Serpell in case his side of the Treasury is interested.

(J.C.B. Richmond)

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/54

FROM

F.O. Minute
(Mr. Ross)

No.

Dated 12.12.52

Received in Registry— 13.12.52

U.N.R.W.A. Advisory Commission

Mr. Luc states French government have now agreed to admit Jordan to Advisory Commission

182

References

EE 1825/55

MINUTES

Dft to Amman

J.W.S. Richmond 15/12

E. Dept. [illegible] 17/12

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft) Mr. Snoberge, Amman
from Mr. Richmond 18 Dec

Capital) Ch. Paris
Ch. Damascus
Sir H. Knight
Beirut 18/Dec

(Action completed) [illegible] 19/12

(Index) [illegible] 19/12/53

42863

EQ1825/54

Minutes.

U.N.W.R.A. Advisory Commission

Monsieur Luc of the Quai d'Orsay told me yesterday that the French Government had now decided to agree to the admission of Jordan to the Advisory Commission. I gathered that this decision was justified in the French Government's mind by the more re-assuring reports which they had recently received of the political situation in Jordan. I had previously scouted the idea that Jordan was going to pieces, and I did so again yesterday.

2. Monsieur Luc said that the French Government wished to notify their decision first to the Jordan Prime Minister direct and then to Mr. Blandford and Monsieur Ingrand. He would therefore be grateful if we would keep the information to ourselves.

A.D.M. Ross

(A.D.M. Ross.)
12th December, 1952.

Copy sent to: Middle East Secretariat.

Mr. Gaucher confirmed this morning that the Jordan P.M. ~~has~~ had been informed & that Ingrand had received his instructions.

A.D.M.R.
12/12

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

(44085) Wt.31461/245 220,000 11/51 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685
(44944) Wt.42772/258 350,000 2/52 " "

Minutes.

I suppose we have told the Jordanians that we agree to their admission - I had an idea we were holding up pending the French decision -

R.J.B.
12/xii

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

(44085) Wt.31461/245 220,000 11/51 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685
(44944) Wt.42772/258 850,000 2/52 " "

Minutes.

F

U.N.W.R.A. Advisory Commission

Monsieur Luc of the Quai d'Orsay told me yesterday that the French Government had now decided to agree to the admission of Jordan to the Advisory Commission. I gathered that this decision was justified in the French Government's mind by the more re-assuring reports which they had recently received of the political situation in Jordan. I had previously scouted the idea that Jordan was going to pieces, and I did so again yesterday.

2. Monsieur Luc said that the French Government wished to notify their decision first to the Jordan Prime Minister direct and then to Mr. Blandford and Monsieur Ingrand. He would therefore be grateful if we would keep the information to ourselves.

(A.D.M. Ross.)
12th December, 1952.

Copy sent to: Middle East Secretariat.

Luke 12/12

Registry No. KK1820/57

+4C

18/1

18

Middle East Secretariat,

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

18th December, 1952.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Draft.

G.W.Furlonge,
Esq., CMG., OBE,
British Embassy,
A m m a n .

CONFIDENTIAL.

You will have seen from Paris telegram No. 604 of the 3rd December that the question of Jordan being invited to join the Advisory Commission of U.N.R.W.A. was discussed again with the Quai d'Orsay. On the 11th December Monsieur Luc told Ross that the French Government had decided to agree to Jordan's admission. Luc said that the French Government wished to notify their decision first to the Jordan Prime Miniter and then to Blandford and Ingrand. Later the French Embassy confirmed that the Jordan Prime Minister had been informed and that Ingrand had been instructed to agree.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Henry Knight and to the Chanceries at Paris and Damascus.

JCBR
17/12

(J.C.B.Richmond.)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN
DIV.
18 DEC 1952
16.30am
18/12

FROM :
Mr Richmond.

E. Dept. Inst.
17/12

COPY to

1. Sir Henry Knight KCSI., CIE., Beirut.
2. Chancery, Paris.
3. Chancery, Damascus.

51—4378

(EE 1826/57)

CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

18th December, 1952.

You will have seen from Paris telegram No. 604 of the 3rd December that the question of Jordan being invited to join the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency was discussed again with the Quai d'Orsay. On the 11th December Monsieur Luc told Ross that the French Government had decided to agree to Jordan's admission. Luc said that the French Government wished to notify their decision first to the Jordan Prime Minister and then to Blandford and Ingrand. Later the French Embassy confirmed that the Jordan Prime Minister has been informed and that Ingrand had been instructed to agree.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Henry Knight and to the Chanceries at Paris and Damascus.

(J. C. B. Richmond)

G. W. Furlonge, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,

Amman.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1825/58

FROM

Sir H. Knight, Beirut.

to Mr Richmond.

No. AC-172.

Dated

Received in Registry— 4.12.62. 13.12.62.

-negotiations with Jordan.

Discusses UNRWA's difficulties in reducing the number of persons on ration rolls in Jordan.

Copied: Amman, Damascus, Cairo, Fayid, Beirut, W'ton.

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft) Sir H. Knight, Beirut.
Copied Amman, Cairo, Damascus, Beirut, W'ton, Sir F. Raff, B.M.E.O. Fayid.
29 Dec.

(Action completed) [illegible] 6/1

(Index) [illegible] 10/2/53

MINUTES

In this letter Sir Henry Knight informs us that the Arabic text of the General Agreement between U.N.R.W.A. and the Jordan Government gives the Jordan Minister concerned the power of veto over the removal of refugees from the Agency's ration rolls. The English text, originally signed by Kennedy, merely gave him the right to be consulted before action was taken. Blandford subsequently signed the Arabic text after he had failed to induce the Jordanians to sign the English one. This state of affairs was news to me and I am looking out 1950 papers to see whether we were informed at the time.

2. Sir Henry Knight goes on to say that since progress is now being made towards finding employment for refugees in Jordan, it is becoming more important from the Agency's point of view to regain the ultimate control of their own ration lists.

3. Sir Henry Knight is doubtful whether the Agreement could be revised "without a showdown and possibly trouble" and suggests two alternative courses :

(a) That the Advisory Commission Powers should make their increased contributions for relief for 1952-53 conditional on the Director obtaining a new Agreement with Jordan within a reasonable time ;

(b) that the Advisory Commission should explain to the Jordan representative when he joins ADCOM. their Governments' unwillingness to contribute to relief in Jordan unless a revised Agreement be reached quickly.

4. Although I prefer the second of these courses, I do not think that we should agree to either of them. They both appear to involve the Advisory Commission Governments indirectly in a matter which, in my opinion, should be dealt with between the Agency and the Jordan Government, even if this entails "a showdown and possibly trouble". Both suggestions contain a threat by contributing Governments to cut off rations from Jordan. This is a bluff, which could be called, since I do not think it possible or desirable for the contributing Powers to cut down relief in Jordan without cutting it down elsewhere. The contributions from the Powers are made to the Agency and it is up to the Agency to use

42863

/them for the .....

them for the benefit of refugees wherever they may be.

5. I think that it is for the Agency to decide whether or not a revised Agreement with Jordan is necessary. If they decide that it is necessary they will have to accept the possibility of "a showdown and possibly trouble". ~~Having accepted this, the line of~~ Having accepted this, the line of argument which the Agency might pursue could be that the General Assembly has sanctioned a fixed sum ($23.m.) for relief in 1952-53. The Agency has reason to think that so many persons in Jordan are wrongly in receipt of rations. They therefore ask for the co-operation of the Jordan Government in removing these from the ration lists, since to continue giving them rations would be unfair to genuine refugees. If the Jordan Government is unwilling to co-operate, the Agency will have no alternative to cutting the individual ration in Jordan proportionately. In such a case they would have to explain to the refugees the reasons for this cut.

6. I suggest that we might reply to Sir Henry Knight on the lines of this minute.

J.C.B. Richmond

Eastern Department. (J.C.B.Richmond.)

Sir James Bowker. 16th December, 1952.

I agree with Mr Richmond.
James C Wardrop
18/12.

A.D.M. Ross
17/12

I also agree that this must be the Agency's responsibility.

R.J.B.
20/xii

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

(AC 172)

SECRET

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Embassy,

BEIRUT.

4th December, 1952.

EE 1825/58

Dear Richmond,

For some time I have been seriously concerned over UNRWA's difficulties in reducing the number of persons on ration rolls in Jordan.

2. As any discussion of this subject would probably involve criticism of Blandford's administration, some six weeks ago I suggested that the Advisory Commission should consider it in a closed meeting. But unfortunately Locke, the Chairman, has not yet managed to fix such a meeting. As Locke is now, I understand, ill in bed and leaving for America on Saturday, I yesterday spoke to Ingrand (who, I find, shares my concern), and then had a talk with Blandford.

3. In UNRWA's general agreement with the Jordan Government, which was negotiated by Kennedy, the English text states that a refugee may only be removed from the ration list after consultation with the Jordan Minister concerned, and this was approved by the Advisory Commission. The Arabic text, however, says that the refugee can only be removed in agreement with the Jordan Minister, thus giving the Jordan Government the power of veto in any reduction of ration rolls. Kennedy signed the English text, the Jordan Minister signed the Arabic, and later Blandford signed the Arabic. As far as I remember, this difference in the two versions was not brought to the notice of the Advisory Commission until accidentally not long ago.

4. Blandford explained to me yesterday that he found it impossible to get the Jordan Government to agree to the English text and therefore he signed the Arabic text, trusting to a gentleman's agreement that the Jordan Government would not be unreasonable. There have also been various agreements between UNRWA officials and the Jordan Government since then on the subject of refugees and rations. The present position is that if on investigation the UNRWA officer finds that a refugee is enjoying rations to which he is not entitled, the refugee can either voluntarily accept removal from the ration roll or appeal to an Appeal Board composed of two UNRWA officials and one Jordan Government official. If one member of the Appeal Board does not agree, the refugee can appeal to a supreme Appeal Board composed of one UNRWA officer and one Jordan officer. I gather that there is no provision for a decision in a case where the two members of the supreme Appeal Board disagree.

5. Not long ago the Jordan Government issued instructions that Appeal Boards, of which there is one for each UNRWA "area", should only sit on one day of the week and only deal with five cases at each sitting.

6. As the Jordan Government is always anxious that the

/number

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

number of ration recipients should not be decreased, the result is that it is now practically impossible to remove any refugees from the ration roll, however well-deserved their removal may be, and even on the time factor alone it would be quite impracticable to remove the 35,000 refugees before 30th June, 1953, as proposed in the UNRWA Plan of Expenditure for 1952/53.

7. Blandford says that as progress is now being made and there will be possibilities for finding employment for the refugees in Jordan, a new agreement should, of course, be negotiated with the Jordan Government. He justifies the existing agreements on the ground that Jordan's economy is so shaky that in the past it was right to be liberal in giving rations to persons not strictly entitled to them and that it was necessary at any cost to keep good relations with the Jordan Government by complying with their views. On the correctness of surrendering to the Jordan Government the power of deciding on what persons the money entrusted to UNRWA should be spent, Blandford is reticent.

8. How many persons are wrongly in receipt of rations in Jordan I cannot yet estimate. It has been difficult for the Advisory Commission to challenge Blandford's statements that such-and-such reductions would be made. This will now have to be thrashed out at the review of the Plan of Expenditure later this month.

9. Whether UNRWA can now resile from the agreement reached with Jordan, or whether the Director can negotiate a new and more suitable agreement without a showdown and possibly trouble, I am doubtful. It might be desirable for the Advisory Commission powers to make their increased contributions for relief for 1952/53 conditional on the Director obtaining a new agreement with Jordan within a reasonable time. Blandford is, however, opposed to any such threat being made.

10. As an alternative (if the French agree to his coming on the Advisory Commission), it might be well to await the arrival of the Jordan representative and then for the Advisory Commission to explain to him their Governments' unwillingness to contribute to relief in Jordan unless a revised arrangement be reached quickly.

11. In Gaza also UNRWA is handicapped in dealing with ration recipients by an early agreement with Egypt which fixed, I think, a total of 200,000 rations. This will have to be modified, but it is not urgent. The opportunities of getting people off the ration in Gaza are extremely small, and at the worst Egypt could afford to feed the Gaza refugees.

12. Another matter in which UNRWA administration is now in difficulties is in having, under pressure from local Governments, fixed too high the levels of refugee earnings below which refugees still keep their rations. I will, if necessary, report further on this when I have more information.

13. It would be unwise, I think, to allow this blackmail of UNRWA by the Arab Governments to continue much longer, but to put things right will undoubtedly mean friction with the Governments and be a difficult legacy left by Blandford for his successor.

14. Under these circumstances it will be most important

/for

for the Advisory Commission powers to act on an agreed line.

15. I hope to discuss the matter at an Advisory Commission meeting next Tuesday.

16. I am sending a copy of this letter to Amman, Damascus, Cairo, Beirut, Washington and Rapp.

Yours sincerely,

H. F. Knight.

(H.F. Knight)

Registry No. EE 1825/58

Bag Today 4 pm

+6 cs pl

29/12

29/3

Middle East Secretariat,

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

~~Top Secret~~
~~Secret~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted~~
~~Open~~

CONFIDENTIAL.

29 December, 1952.

Draft.

Sir Henry Knight,
KCSI., CIE.,
c/o British
Embassy,
Beirut.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
29 DEC 1952
SENT TO TYPE
DISTRIBUTION

E. Dept (First) 24/12

Thank you for your letter AC 172 of the 4th December about U.N.R.W.A.'s general agreement with the Jordan Government and the difficulties which these make for U.N.R.W.A. in reducing the recipients of rations in Jordan.

2. I agree that the position seems most unsatisfactory. I cannot discover from ~~the~~ our papers that we ~~had been~~ were informed at the time of the differences between the English and the Arabic texts, nor whether the Advisory Commission Powers were consulted before Blandford signed the Arabic text. I see from your paragraph 3 that your recollection is that the Advisory Commission was not consulted at the time.

3. Although I agree that the present position is unsatisfactory, I do not think that the suggestions in your paragraphs 9 and 10 would be the right way to get the agreement altered. Both of these courses seem to involve the Advisory Commission Governments indirectly in a matter which, in my opinion, should be dealt with between the Agency and the Jordan Government, even if this entails "a showdown and possibly trouble". Both suggestions contain a threat by contributing Governments to cut off rations from Jordan. This is a bluff, which could be called, since I do not think it possible or desirable for the contributing Powers to cut down relief in Jordan without cutting it down elsewhere. The contributions from the Powers are made to the Agency and it is ~~up to~~ for the Agency to use them for the benefit of refugees

/wherever .....

FROM :
Mr Richmond.

COPY to

1. AMMAN
2. CAIRO
3. DAMASCUS
4. BEIRUT
5. WASHINGTON and Sir T. Rapp
6. ~~W.F. Crawford, Esq., CMG., OBE., Development Division~~ B. M. E. O., (Fayid) ~~Beirut~~.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(10/48) (22601) Wt. 8471-183 200m 6/49 G.S.St.

wherever they may be.

4. I think that ~~it is for~~ the Agency ~~to~~ must decide whether or not a revised Agreement with Jordan is necessary. If they decide that it is necessary they will have to accept the possibility of "a showdown and possibly trouble". Having accepted this, the line of argument which the Agency might pursue could be that the General Assembly has sanctioned a fixed sum ($23.m.) for relief in 1952-53. The Agency has reason to think that so many persons in Jordan are wrongly in receipt of rations. They therefore ask for the co-operation of the Jordan Government in removing these from the ration lists, since to continue giving them rations would be unfair to genuine refugees. If the Jordan Government is unwilling to co-operate, the Agency will have no alternative to cutting the individual ration in Jordan proportionately. In such a case they would have to explain to the refugees the reasons for this cut. This line of argument might first be tried out on the Jordan representative on Adv Com, when he is appointed, since if the Agency could carry him with them, their chances of obtaining Jordanian agreement to revision of the agreement would obviously be much improved.

(J.C.B.Richmond.)

and not rely on pressure from the contributing powers to induce Jordan to agree to revision.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

29/12

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

(EE 1825/58)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL

29th December, 1952.

Thank you for your letter AC 172 of the 4th December about the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's general agreement with the Jordan Government and the difficulties which these make for U.N.R.W.A. in reducing the recipients of rations in Jordan.

2. I agree that the position seems most unsatisfactory. I cannot discover from our papers that we were informed at the time of the differences between the English and the Arabic texts, nor whether the Advisory Commission Powers were consulted before Blandford signed the Arabic text. I see from your paragraph 3 that your recollection is that the Advisory Commission was not consulted at the time.

3. Although I agree that the present position is unsatisfactory, I do not think that the suggestions in your paragraphs 9 and 10 would be the right way to get the agreement altered. Both of these courses seem to involve the Advisory Commission Governments indirectly in a matter which, in my opinion, should be dealt with between the Agency and the Jordan Government, even if this entails "a showdown and possibly trouble". Both suggestions contain a threat by contributing Governments to cut off rations from Jordan. This is a bluff, which could be called, since I do not think it possible or desirable for the contributing Powers to cut down relief in Jordan without cutting it down elsewhere. The contributions from the Powers are made to the Agency and it is for the Agency to use them for the benefit of refugees wherever they may be.

4. I think that the Agency must decide whether or not a revised Agreement with Jordan is necessary. If they decide that it is necessary they will have to accept the possibility of "a showdown and possibly trouble" and not rely on pressure from the contributing powers to induce Jordan to agree to revision. Having accepted this, the line of argument which the Agency might pursue could be that the General Assembly has sanctioned a fixed sum (£23.m.) for relief in 1952-1953. The Agency has reason to think that so many persons in Jordan are wrongly in receipt of rations. They therefore ask for the co-operation of the Jordan Government in removing these from the ration lists, since to continue giving them rations would be unfair to genuine refugees. If the Jordan Government is unwilling to co-operate, the Agency will have no alternative to cutting the individual ration in Jordan proportionately. In such a case they would have to explain to the refugees the reason for this cut. This line of argument might first be tried out on the Jordan representative on the Advisory Commission, when he is appointed, since if the Agency could carry him with them, their chances of obtaining Jordanian agreement to revision of the agreement would obviously be much improved.

5. I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

(J.C.B. Richmond)

Sir Henry Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Beirut.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E.1825/59.

FROM

Sir H. Knight.
Beirut

No. AC 44

Dated 12. 12. 52

Received in Registry— 14. 12. 52.

Jordan Government no longer wish to take over responsibility for relief of 50,000 refugees in a defined area.

References

EE 1825/54

MINUTES

Copy (T'ry Clifton)

[illegible] 20/12

E. Dept. [illegible] 30/12

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8) Mr. Clifton, Treasury 30 Dec

(Action completed)

[illegible] 12/1

(Index)

[illegible] 10/2/53

42863

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Embassy,

BEIRUT.

(AC 77)

CONFIDENTIAL

12th December, 1952.

FE1825/54

FE1825/59

29/12

29/5

Dear Richmond,

Please refer to my letter (AC 77) of the 26th November, and to Furlong's letter (18205/55) of December 4th.

2. I understand that the Jordan Government is not now anxious to pursue the scheme of taking over responsibility for relief of 50,000 refugees in a defined area.

3. I have as yet no details as to why, but I shall probably know more early next week.

4. I confess from their point of view I think the Jordan Government is wise.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to Amman.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. Knight)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

EE 1825/60.

FROM

Sir H. Knight.
Beirut

No. AC 142

Dated 10.12.52

Received in Registry— 19.12.52

Negotiations with Jordan.
Encloses copy of letter addressed to Director and Advisory Commission concerning wastage of relief money in high level wages below which rations are not cut.

References

EE 1820/58.

MINUTES

RP 24/12.
African Dept.
E. Dept. 1825 2/1

[illegible] 20/12

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [illegible] 5/1

(Index) [illegible] 10/2/53

42863

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Embassy,

BEIRUT.

(AC 172)

CONFIDENTIAL

10th December, 1952.

E 1823/58

E 1823/60

Dear Richmond,

More or less in continuation of my letter (AC 172) of the 4th December about refugees and rations, I enclose copy of a letter to the Director and Advisory Commission which, if possible, we shall discuss to-morrow.

2. I do not think that we are likely to reach a decision to-morrow, but it is one of these problems resulting from anxiety to get the Arab Governments to co-operate with us. If we do reach any conclusion, or the discussion produces anything of value, I will let you know later.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. Knight)

P.S. Of course this letter pays no attention to the relative working-class cost of living.

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

He is really in his native element!

COPY

(AC 172)

CONFIDENTIAL

c/o British Embassy,

BEIRUT.

28th November, 1952.

If the facts below are correct, I think this note needs serious consideration by Adcom. and the Director.

2. For many months there has been general agreement that one direction in which there is unnecessary waste of relief money is in the high level of wages proscribed by the various Governments below which rations are not cut.

3. I understand, for instance, that in the Gaza strip no refugee has any reduction made in his rations until his wages reach £E 15 (£15. 7. 6d. sterling). It appears there is no sliding scale for the size of family and that a single man without dependants might earn £15. 7/- sterling a month and at the same time still receive rations, shelter, fuel, some soap, a blanket occasionally and, from voluntary sources, some clothing.

4. I think I am right in thinking that in the United Kingdom a single man without dependants earning £15. 7/- sterling per month would not only have to pay for his food, his rent, his clothes, etc., and his National Insurance contribution of £12. 15. 8d. a year, but he would also have to pay about £1. 10/- a year income tax. Part of this last of course goes to support the Arab refugee in Gaza.

5. It would be difficult to convince a British worker that it is right that he should pay taxes to support an Arab worker who earns more money than he does, who pays no income tax and who has his food and housing provided free.

6. This particular case may not of course occur in fact, but the principle seems wrong. It is obvious, too, that if an enterprising journalist were to splash the above example in a Sunday newspaper, the British Government's task of getting Parliamentary approval to its contribution to UNRWA would be made more difficult, and repercussions in other contributing countries might well follow.

7. The example above is from Gaza, but I think that other host countries may be found to give similar results. H.M.G. has stressed its desire to see the wage levels in question reduced and I think that the time has now come to take action. Papers, which have the approval of the Advisory Commission and the Foreign Office, were put up by Myers while I was on leave and I think they would form a useful basis for reform.

8. The principal suggestions were:-

(i) the level of wages at which the refugee's rations should be cut should not be more than 20 per cent. above the lowest wages where he finds work. Where no reliable information as regards wages is available, the wages paid by the Government or the Municipality should be taken.

(ii) To help the refugee to equip himself for his work he should be allowed to draw rations for three months after getting work if he reports that he has got work, and for two months if UNRWA finds out he has got it without his reporting it.

/(iii)

(iii) After nine months' continuous work refugees should not be eligible to return to rations but should be given a discharge card and £50 per capita of himself and his family to set himself up (less if he has been provided with housing in his new job).

(iv) Any refugees enrolled in a military or para-military force should come within these orders and their uniforms, rations, etc., be taken into account in calculating their wages.

9. Unless UNRWA can prevent its hands being tied by local Governments as to who should receive rations and who should not I fear it will come in for considerable criticism from all contributing Governments at the next General Assembly.

(Sgd.) H.F. Knight.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

1952

EE. 1825/61.

FROM
Sir O. Harvey
Paris

No. 6 Help
Dated 18.12.52
Received in Registry— 18.12.52

Jordan and Advisory Commission
French Government not agree
to Jordan being represented
182 (Rpd. Beirut, Amman & Damascus)

Last Paper

References
EE. 1825/55

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes)

L. Dept. 20/12
N. E/S. Dept.

20/12

(Action completed)
31/12

(Index)

Next Paper

37330

CONFIDENTIAL

E E1825/61 E

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Sir O. Harvey
No. 644 D. 2.30 p.m. 18th December, 1952
18th December, 1952 R. 3.27 p.m. 18th December, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

/EE 1825/55

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 644 of 18th December,
Repeated for information to: Beirut
Amman
Damascus
and Saving to: Washington

My telegram No. 604: Jordan and Advisory Commission.

Official of Quai d'Orsay told member of my staff in conversation that the French Government now agreed to Jordan being represented. I understand that Sir H. Knight and others interested have already been informed.

Foreign Office please pass to Beirut, Amman and Damascus as my telegrams Nos. 16, 23 and 15 respectively.

[Repeated to Beirut, Amman and Damascus].

DISTRIBUTED TO:
Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat
United Nations (Economic and Social) Department
Western and Southern Department

7777777

19 DEC 1952 AMMAN

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/62

FROM Sir H. Knight
Beirut
& W. Richmond

CONFIDENTIAL

No. AC 100/9

Dated 10th December

Received in Registry— 17th December

Libya and UNRWA.

Encloses copy of an agreement between Libya and UNRWA, admitting a number of refugees to Libya

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 31/12

(Index) 10/1/53

MINUTES

Article III seems satisfactory.

This is the first formal agreement by an Arab Government for the admission of refugees from outside, & its text may possibly serve as a precedent.

African Dept. 24/12

E Wallinger 22/12

22/12

42863

Adcon 428

A G R E E M E N T
between
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF LIBYA
and
THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF & WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

WHEREAS the Government of the United Kingdom of Libya (hereinafter referred to as "the Government") agrees to admit to Libya a number of refugees and to allow them to be established in self-supporting pursuits; and

WHEREAS the United Nations has authorized the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (hereinafter referred to as "the Agency") to co-operate with Governments with a view to assisting refugees in improving their living conditions and in becoming self-supporting;

The Government and the Agency have agreed to the following:

ARTICLE I

The Government and the Agency agree to join at the earliest possible opportunity in planning programmes for the establishment of a number of refugees in the United Kingdom of Libya.

The execution of such programmes through specific projects shall be subject to special project agreements. Projects agreed upon between the Government and the Agency shall be financed by the Agency.

ARTICLE II

The Agency shall possess juridical personality and shall enjoy in the territory of the United Kingdom of Libya the appropriate privileges and immunities provided for in the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

ARTICLE III

The Government agrees to permit entry of those refugees selected for settlement in Libya who have no passports, on laissez-passers issued by any Arab Government in the Near East or by UNRWA itself.

The Government will, in due course, confer upon refugees who apply therefor, the rights and privileges enjoyed by the citizens of Libya.

ARTICLE IV

The present Agreement will come into force as from the date of its signature and will remain in force for the period necessary for the execution of the programme referred to above.

ARTICLE V

The present Agreement will be signed in English and in Arabic. In the event of discrepancy between the English and Arabic texts of this Agreement, the English version shall prevail.

Signed at Tripoli, this 23rd day of November, 1952.

For and on behalf of the United Kingdom of Libya

(Sgd. Mahmoud Bey Montasser
(Prime Minister, Libya)

For and on behalf of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

(Sgd.) T.H. Yazdi
(UNRWA Liaison Officer, Libya)

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

1952

PALESTINE

EE 1825/63

FROM

Mr. Barnes,
Beirut

No. 804

Dated 20. 12. 52

Received in Registry— 22. 12. 52

M. Ingrand has stated his Government agrees to Jordan joining Advisory Commission.

Letter of invitation will issue.

(Rpd: Saving to Washington)

Last Paper

References

EE 1825/61

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

30/12

10/7/53

Next Paper

(Minutes)

E. Dept. 22/12

W. & S. Department.

22/12

37330

CONFIDENTIAL

E.1825/63 E

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Barnes
No. 804
20th December, 1952.

D. 11.54 a.m. 20th December, 1952
R. 1.9 p.m. 20th December, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 804 of 20th December
Repeated for information to Amman and Washington.

Following from Knight.

Ingrand informed the Advisory Commission yesterday morning that his Government agreed to the invitation to Jordan to join the Advisory Commission. Letter of invitation is issuing immediately.

Foreign Office pass to Washington as my telegram No. 53.

[Repeated Saving to Washington].

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

mmmmm

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/64.

FROM Sir H. Knight
Beirut

No. AC 77

Dated 17/12

Received in Registry— 29/12

The Jordan Government have made enquiries of Mr Telford about what cash they would receive if they took over the maintenance of the 50,000 refugees. Discussion on this matter is to be continued.

References

-/59

MINUTES

(Print)

(How disposed of)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(Action completed)	(Index)
12/1	10/1/53

42863

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Embassy,

BEIRUT.

(AC 77)

CONFIDENTIAL

17th December, 1952.

EE 1825/64

Dear Richmond,

In continuation of my letter (AC 77) of the 12th December, 1952, saying that the Jordan Government does not seem keen on taking over responsibility for relief of 50,000 refugees near Amman.

2. I have since seen Telford and I gather that he had been asked by the Jordan Government to tell them what cash they would receive if they took over the care of these 50,000. The Government would then make enquiries to see if supplies will be available from, as far as possible, increased local production to prevent inflation, for the refugees would, under this scheme, receive cash from the Jordan Government.

3. Telford is to discuss it further on his return to Jordan.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. Knight)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1825/65

FROM

Sir. H. Knight; Beirut to Mr. Richmond

No. A.C. 44

Dated 24. 12. 52

Received in Registry— 31. 12. 52

Discusses conversation with Mr. Baxter and Mr. Porter about proposal for Jordan Government to take over 50,000 refugees and distribute money for food provided by U.N.R.W.A.

182 (Copied Amman, B.M.E.O. (Dev. Div) and Fayid)

References

—/64

EE 1821/2

MINUTES

See on EE 1821/2 of 1953

EDEPT 9/1

JWBR 2/1

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8) Col. Russell-Edmunds Treasury - 2 Jan

(Action completed)	(Index)
[illegible] 12/1	[illegible] 10/7/53

42863

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Embassy,

BEIRUT.

(AC 77)

CONFIDENTIAL

24th December, 1952.

E 1825/65

Dear Richmond,

I yesterday talked over with Baster and Porter the proposal that the Jordan Government should take over 50,000 refugees and that UNRWA should give the Jordan Government the money which the Jordan Government would distribute to the refugees to buy food.

2. Admittedly, on the one hand we eventually hope to hand over the administration of relief to the Arab Governments, and on the other an experiment on a small scale of 50,000 refugees might give results which would be misleading when half a million refugees would be handed over.

3. Nevertheless, I think that such a pilot experiment would be of value. It would present to the Jordan Government some of the problems and difficulties they would encounter if they take over administration of relief, and it would provide some inducement to the Jordan Government to get off relief those of the 50,000 who were not entitled to it, or, alternatively, to spread the cash thinner so as to cover economic refugees and/or indigent Jordanians. It will provide the refugees with experience of conditions when UNRWA ceases to administer relief. The experience should be valuable to the Government and to the refugees whatever the result.

4. The conditions of the experiment are by no means yet settled, but one remarkable fact (if it be a fact) is that the comestibles of a refugee's rations are reported to cost UNRWA £1.56 a month, whereas a refugee can buy the same foods in the same quantities retail at Amman for £1.78 a month. The cost to UNRWA does not include overheads and transport. I think Baster is going into these figures again, but if they are correct, UNRWA supply to refugees is more expensive than it need be. I am not sure, however, that the figures are correct, and even if the retail cost in Amman is now £1.78, there is no telling without experiment what the retail cost of a ration would be when 50,000 refugees have money to buy it.

5. If the Jordan Government on full consideration wish to take over the relief of 50,000 refugees as far as food is concerned, I doubt whether UNRWA, in view of the United Nations injunction to hand over relief to the Arab Governments, could demur without very strong reason.

6. Despite the objections which are clear, I personally think that if the Jordan Government wishes the experiment tried, it would be wise to do it.

7. I am sending a copy of this letter to Amman, Development Division Beirut, and British Middle East Office Fayid.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. Knight)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1825/66

FROM

Damascus.
comm'd
(Mr. Samuel
to Sir H. Knight)

No. 18202/254/52

Dated 18. 12. 52

Received in Registry— 24. 12. 52

Syria and Advisory Commission
Discusses Mr. Lamberts' talk with
Abdul Kerim Dandashi, temporary
Head of Palestine Arab Refugees
Institute.
Encloses biographical note of Mr. Dandashi

References

-/52
40
EE.1826/118
EE18214/11-MES 13/1

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [illegible] 12/1

(Index) [illegible] 10/1

MINUTES

Para 3 shows that Syrian merchants may be expected to put the same kind of pressure on the Syrian Govt as the Jordan millers are putting on the Jordan Govt. This could lead to Syria wanting to take over supplies (or cash in lieu of supplies) from U.N.R.W.A. Para 5 shows the same tendency in matters of reintegration.

It is difficult to know how strongly this tendency shd be resisted. It ought not, I think, be rejected out of hand. Our and UNRWAs object is to get the Govts eventually to assume responsibility for refugees. But clearly the interest of the refugees demands that this shd not be done too quickly.

JWBR
1/1

E. Dept.

Reached me today.
The tendency appears to be in the right direction. The question is, to secure the minimum essential safeguards for the refugees — while aiming at maximum safeguards, of course — as each proposition comes up.

GHB
10/1

42863

18202/257/52

CONFIDENTIAL.

British Embassy,

DAMASCUS.

18th December, 1952.

Lambert has had a long talk with Abdul Kerim Dandashi, temporary Head of the Palestine Arab Refugees .... Institute here (of whom I enclose a biographical note). The following are the main points he made.

2. The Syrian authorities have still not decided whether to have a full time ADCOM representative resident in Beirut or whether to combine the post with that of the Head of the Palestine Arab Refugees Institute. Dandashi himself thought it would be necessary to have a Beirut office but he would like first to discuss the matter with ADCOM representatives, to find out how often they meet, etc. He may visit Beirut shortly for this purpose.

3. He then said that he was anxious to discuss Syrian problems with UNRWA as soon as possible. He thought UNRWA's administration in Beirut was over-centralised and he wanted to suggest that the supply services for Syria might be decentralised. He maintained that UNRWA gave contracts for supplies to Syria to Lebanese merchants who were taking their usual cut. He wanted Syrian merchants to replace them: the Syrian authorities would then see that there were no excessive profits. He also wanted UNRWA in Syria to have more national staff. He had, however, agreed with Depage that a few of the senior staff should be international (see paragraph 3 of my letter to Richmond, 18202/252/52 of the 11th December).

4. Dandashi thought the 30 million dollar scheme was a great opportunity from which he wanted Syria and her refugees to obtain the maximum benefit. Colonel Shishakli had, in his view, shown much courage in signing and speaking out in favour of the agreement, braving criticism both at home and in other Arab countries. There were still people in the Syrian Government who were opposed to UNRWA and who would try to impede UNRWA's work apparently because they had heard that there was a Jew working at the Beirut Headquarters.

5. Dandashi also wanted to discuss with UNRWA the possibility of pouring the 30 million dollars as soon as possible into a central fund to be jointly administered by UNRWA and Syria for the benefit of the refugees. His idea seemed to be that any money waiting to be committed might be employed actively by this fund, which would work on the model of an agricultural or industrial bank.

6. He said there was no hope of re-settlement being permitted on private land, but there was good State land to be had. He appeared to realise that there would be less of a drain on the 30 million dollars if good land were set aside for UNRWA thus obviating such expensive operations to find sweet water as were now going on in the Ramadane area. Lambert made Depage's point about the need to keep up the pace of allotment of land (see paragraph 2 of my letter to Richmond). Dandashi maintained that the authorities were prepared to give

/UNRWA

Sir Henry Knight, KCMG., CIE.,
United Kingdom Delegate to UNRWA.,
c/o British Embassy,
BEIRUT.

UNRWA land anywhere in Syria except in the Jezireh for which they had their own plans.

7. Dandashi welcomed the likelihood of Jordan becoming a member of the Advisory Commission.

8. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Middle East Secretariat and to the British Middle East Office, Fayid.

A. C. I. SAMUEL

(A.C.I.Samuel)

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE TO MR. SAMUEL'S
TO SIR HENRY KNIGHT NO.
18202/257/52 OF 18th DEC. 1952.

ABDEL KERIM BIN RABBAH DANDASHI

Born in 1917 - married. Educated at the American University of Beirut (diplomas in Political Science and Arab History). Joined a Nationalist Youth organization.

In 1938 he became teacher of Arab History at the Basra Secondary School and in 1939 at the Bagdad Secondary School. In 1945 he was appointed Director of the Political Section at the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1946 he became Secretary of the Syrian Delegation to the United Nations Preparatory Committee. In 1947 he was 2nd Secretary at the Syrian Legation in London, later becoming Syrian Consul in Adana, and then Syrian Consul in Sao Paulo (from 23rd July 1950 - 18th January 1951). He was then posted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a 1st Secretary, and later in 1951 became 2nd Secretary at the Syrian Legation at Ankara. Seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and appointed temporary head of the Palestine Arab Refugees Institute in the autumn of 1952.

He is a member of a well-known Syrian family and has private means. A member of Colonel Shishakli's Arab Liberation Movement.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1825/67

FROM

Sir. H. Knight.
Beirut

No. A.C. 238.

Dated 23. 12. 52

Received in Registry— 31. 12. 52

Reports discussion with Abdul Kerim Dandashi, Head of P.A.R.I., about duties and accommodation of a Syrian member of Advisory Commission

References

EE1825/66

MINUTES

Good.

JWBR 3/1

E. Dept. may have to see.

[illegible] 5/1

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

[illegible] 5/1

(Index)

[illegible] 10/2/53

42863

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Embassy,
BEIRUT.

(AC 238)

CONFIDENTIAL

23rd December, 1952.

EE 1825/68

Dear Richmond,

I yesterday visited Damascus and as I found Dandashi, the present head of P.A.R.I., had been enquiring about the duties and accommodation of a Syrian member of the Advisory Commission, Lambert and I went round and had a talk with him.

2. He enquired whether it would be possible to combine the duties of member of the Advisory Commission with work in Damascus, and I advised against it. The Advisory Commission meets normally once, and sometimes twice or more, a week, very often at short notice, and it would be almost impossible to be certain of getting the Agenda and other papers to a member resident in Damascus with adequate time before the date of the meeting. I stressed in any case that the Advisory Commission considered the possibility of informal discussion among themselves most valuable and that I did not think Syria would get full value of its membership unless the representative were in Beirut.

3. As he queried regarding office accommodation, I explained that the other members used their countries' Missions, but that as Syria had no Mission in Beirut I expected UNRWA would be able to make a room available for the Syrian delegate in UNESCO building.

4. We discussed various questions raised by him, several of which turned out to be obviously matters which could be most effectively talked over in the Advisory Commission when the Syrian representative was appointed.

5. He said that Dr. Daoudi was to be appointed the Syrian representative to-day.

EE 1825/66

6. Among the matters discussed were a number of those mentioned in Samuel's letter 18202/257/52 of the 18th December, 1952, and as soon as time permits I will let you have a note of them. I doubt whether it will be able to catch tomorrow's bag, however.

7. I was very favourably impressed by Dandashi.

8. I am sending a copy of this letter to Damascus and British Middle East Office Fayid.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. Knight)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

Negotiations with Arab governments to secure their support for the UN resolutions on refugees and on the Palestine question; admission of Syria and Jordan to the UNRWA Advisory Commission (ADCOM). Code EE file 1825 (papers 46 to end). 1952. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1947-1970 FO 371/98510. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom).